

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
APPROVED Minutes of May 7, 2013, meeting
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Al Cyr called the meeting to order at 7:35.

PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Bryan Kielbania, Vicky Wetherell, Kathleen Paterson, Jennifer Kaufman (staff). Also attending: Ed Hall, Shep Stearns, Alyssa Stearns.

2. Minutes of the April 2, 2013 meeting were approved with one amendment.

Old Business

3. *Farmland leasing* The subcommittee has reviewed lease applications and will interview applicants before reporting their recommendations to the full committee at the June 4 meeting.

4. *Mansfield Tomorrow Agricultural Strategy* Committee members who attended the Agriculture Focus Group discussed their observations about the Group's meeting on April 30. The committee discussed further items for the consultant Yellow Wood to research and include in their recommendations for agricultural strategies.

New Business

5. *PZC Referrral - Campus Crossing Subdivision Application* The committee reviewed the proposed commercial subdivision of land behind the banks at the junction of the proposed Hillside Road Extension and Route 44. The ten acres that would be subdivided has prime agricultural soils, and converting this land to commercial uses would result in permanent loss of a valuable resource. The committee recommended that PZC consider two options.

1) Market Garden: The committee would prefer that this productive land be used for a market garden behind the banks to promote UConn's commitment to local agriculture and the visibility of agriculture in Mansfield. If this is not feasible, then consider mitigation.

2) Mitigation: There are impacts on UConn farmland along other parts of the proposed Hillside Road Extension. The mitigation plan for these losses would compensate by permanently preserving farmland elsewhere on UConn property. The committee recommends that this proposed subdivision follow that precedent and provide comparable mitigation for loss of the Campus Crossing prime farmland by a) placing a permanent easement on an equal amount (10 acres) of UConn's prime farmland or b) restoring double the acreage (20 acres) on less-than-prime farmland and placing a permanent agricultural easement on it.

6. *Processing Facilities* The committee discussed the possibility of local commercial kitchens being available for local farmers to produce value-added items.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05. The next regular meeting is on June 4.